

Message Text

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ACTION L-03

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 AGR-01 ACDA-12 AID-05 CEA-01
CEQ-01 CG-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 DLOS-09 DODE-00
DOTE-00 EB-08 EPA-01 SOE-02 DOE-15 FMC-01 TRSE-00
H-01 INR-10 INT-05 IO-13 JUSE-00 NSAE-00 NSC-05
NSF-01 OES-07 OMB-01 PA-01 PM-05 SP-02 SS-15
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R 301506Z JUN 78
FM AMEMBASSY LONDON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7725
INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

C O N F I D E N T I A L LONDON 10404

E. O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PBOR, PLOS, UK
SUBJECT: U.K.-FRANCE CONTINENTAL SHELF ARBITRATION

REF: (A) STATE 165240; (B) 77 LONDON 13516

EMBASSY DISCUSSED REFTEL A REQUEST FOR MEMORIALS AND
COUNTER-MEMORIALS OF U.K. AND FRANCE IN SUBJECT AR-
BITRATION CASE WITH PETER DUNNE OF U.K. FOREIGN AND
COMMONWEALTH OFFICE WHO HAS WORKING LEVEL RESPONSI-
BILITY FOR THE MATTER. HE INFORMALLY SAID THAT HE WAS
QUITE SURE THAT THE MEMORIALS WOULD ONLY BE RELEASED
TO THE U.S. OR CANADA, EVEN WITH A COMMITMENT TO MAIN-
TAIN THEIR CONFIDENTIALITY, AFTER AGREEMENT BETWEEN
THE U.K. AND FRANCE. FURTHERMORE, HE WAS HIGHLY
DUBIOUS THAT SUCH AN AGREEMENT WOULD BE FORTHCOMING.
IN HIS VIEW, THERE WERE MORE DIFFICULTIES FOR FRANCE
THAN FOR THE U.K. HE WOULD NOT BE MORE EXPLICIT,
BUT SAID THAT OUR LAWYERS WOULD BE ABLE TO UNDERSTAND
THE FRENCH RELUCTANCE BY STUDYING THE DECISION (REF-
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TEL B). HE ADDED THAT THE U.K. HAD ARGUED ITS CASE
ON THE BASIS OF THE 1958 CONTINENTAL SHELF CONVENTION
AND BELIEVED ITS CASE WAS GROUNDED FIRMLY IN INTER-
NATIONAL LAW, WHILE FRANCE HAD MADE ARGUMENTS BASED
ON THE GENERAL DIRECTION LINES OF THEIR COASTS.

BREWSTER

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